



Eclipsing the Eclipse Myth
Join a mass movement to break myths during the
Total Lunar Eclipse on June 15th

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On 15th June, 2011, India will witness a lunar eclipse in totality. SPACE Foundation wants to take an initiative and break the myths related to the eclipse. Many people still believe that eating food during the time of the eclipse harms the body. SPACE Foundation has been changing the face of science and astronomy awareness and education in India through such path-breaking concepts, programs and projects.

About the Eclipse

This is the first of two total lunar eclipses in 2011, the second occurring on December 10. It is a relatively rare central eclipse where the moon passes in front of the center of the Earth's shadow. It will be visible completely over Africa, and Central Asia, visible rising over South America, Western Africa, and Europe, and setting over Eastern Asia, and Australia.

The total phase itself is long, and lasts 100 minutes. The last eclipse to exceed this duration was in July 2000. The Moon's contact times with Earth's umbral and penumbral shadows as seen from Delhi:

Pen Eclipse Begins:22:55	Alt:+34,	Partial Begins:23:53	Alt:+37
Total Begins: 00:52	Alt: +37,	Mid Eclipse: 01:43	Alt:+34
Total Ends: 02:33	Alt:+29,	Partial Ends: 03:32	Alt:+21
Pen Eclipse Ends:04:31	Alt: +11		

As this eclipse is the first lunar eclipse of 2011 that occurs at the Moon's ascending node in southern Ophiuchus about 7° west of the Lagoon Nebula (M8). The Moon passes deeply through Earth's umbral shadow during this rather long event. The total phase itself lasts 100 minutes. This eclipse would be witnessed from South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Join us in the campaign

SPACE Foundation wants to invite people from all across India to join in a mass survey of 'feasting during the eclipse'. Lunar eclipse is a scientific phenomenon and it has nothing to do with the food one eats. Therefore, we would like to call all



Indians to participate in this campaign and break these undying myths which have been passing from one generation to another.

People who are interested can register themselves at <https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dGowQUQyNFdEX3ZVQ0tDUTk2Vno0TWc6MQ>. The supporters of this campaign have to eat during the eclipse and click their photographs. This would be followed by a report based on the condition of their health over a period of seven days. The report has to be sent to info@space-india.org by all the participating campaigners. The report should contain pictures, description of event and general medical report reporting any adverse medical health which was previously not present starting from 1 day prior to 7 days late. A cumulative report would be then drafted and sent to UNESCO and other scientific organisations.

SPACE Foundation is also organizing a webcast and an observation of the lunar eclipse from its office building on 15th June. Join SPACE and ECA (Eclipse Chasers Athenaeum) on SPACE rooftop to observe. Live webcast will be shown here from 11:30 onwards: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/live-eclipse-streaming>. SPACE cordially invites the media to come and witness the Total Lunar Eclipse while feasting.

SPACE Foundation, Science Popularisation Association of Communicators and Educators is an NGO, founded in 2001, with the goal of popularising science via Astronomy and Space Sciences. This organisation targets the public, the media and the students.

We look forward to your participation in this unique campaign. It's high time to take a step forward in the development of the scientific temperament among the people of India. So let's not fast rather let's feast during the eclipse.

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